



Coyote Stories and Winter

November 2010

Most of Montana has been snow-covered in the last week. We are pulling out all of our coyote stories here at OPI Indian Education, and getting ready to enjoy these winter tales! One such tale is [Beaver Steals Fire](#), by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, which includes this introductory note describing the tribe's seasonal protocol:

"We must ask one special favor of those who use this book in the classroom or who may otherwise read or discuss it aloud: our traditional Coyote stories--the legends of Coyote--and the other animal people that appear throughout this book--should be told or discussed only during winter when snow is on the ground. The elders usually bring out the stories in November and put them away again when the snow is gone--usually by late February or March. Some say the stories are put away when the snakes come out. It is said that snakes will come to those who do not follow this custom or that cold weather will come during the warm months. Coyote stories, like other parts of our traditional way of life, are part of a seasonal cycle. By following this tradition readers, teachers, and students can enjoy this aspect of our culture--keeping and saving something for the time of year during which it belongs.

"Salish and Pend d'Oreille Culture Committee"

A model lesson for *Beaver Steals Fire* is included in *Model Teaching Units Language Arts Volume Two*, in your school library or online (<http://opi.mt.gov/Programs/IndianEd/curricsearch.html>).

Look for more Coyote stories in your school library and commemorate the dramatic transition to winter!

Titles marked with * denote books sent to school libraries by OPI

*[Beaver Steals Fire: A Salish Coyote Story](#) by Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Told by Salish elder Johnny Arlee and illustrated by tribal artist Sam Sandoval. **Also on DVD**, told to a group of children in a traditional tepee setting.
ISBN 0803243235

*[Coyote Stories of the Montana Salish Indians](#), from the Salish Culture Committee -- Three traditional Salish Coyote stories recorded by Salish elders and illustrated by Indian artists from the Flathead Reservation. Fourth-grade reading level. ISBN 0-917298-61-6

[Ktunaxa Legends](#), from the Kootenai Culture Committee -- Traditional Coyote and animal stories of the Flathead Reservation Ktunaxa (Kootenai) Indians. Translated by culture committee members and illustrated by Kootenai artists. ISBN-10: 0295976608
<http://www.charkoosta.com/features.html>

DOWNLOADABLE!

Indian Reading Series: Stories and Legends of the Northwest

<http://apps.educationnorthwest.org/indianreading/index.html>

[Coyote and the Stars](#) [435 KB, 20 pp.] **Book 1** Members of the Warm Springs Reservation Committee

Carol Allison (Illustrator), Nita Curtis (Consultant), William Frank (Illustrator), Rena Greene, Verbena Greene (Coordinator), Viola Kalama, Isabelle Keo, Stella McKinley, Matilda Mitchell, Debbie Smith (Illustrator), Ada Sooksoit, Christine Tom, Felix Wallulatum, Wilson Wewa
Illustrated by Carol Allison

[Tales of Coyote and Other Legends](#) [715 KB, 36 pp.] **Book 10** Members of the Warm Springs Reservation Committee

Carol Allison (Illustrator), Nita Curtis (Consultant), William Frank (Illustrator), Rena Greene, Verbena Greene (Coordinator), Viola Kalama, Isabelle Keo, Stella McKinley, Matilda Mitchell, Debbie Smith (Illustrator), Ada Sooksoit, Christine Tom, Felix Wallulatum, Wilson Wewa
Illustrated by Carol Allison

*[Bob-Tailed Coyote](#) [159 KB, 19 pp.] **Book 8** Northern Cheyenne Research and Human Development Association Illustrated by Dale Brady (reprinted as Insects Off to War & The Bob-Tailed Coyote, OPI 2009)

*[Coyote and the Man Who Sits On Top](#) [818 KB, 22 pp.] **Book 12** Developed by the Salish (Flathead) Cultural Committee of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Johnny Arlee (Coordinator), Mary Finley, Tony Incashola, Mary Linsebigler, Tony Sandoval (Illustrator), Clarence Woodcock Told by Johnny Arlee Illustrated by Tony Sandoval Compiled by Shirley Torgerson
(reprinted by OPI 2009)

[Coyote and Old Lady](#) [2.3 MB, 36 pp.] **Book 9** Members of the Fort Hall Reservation Committee
Frederick Auck (Illustrator), Maxine Edmo (Coordinator), Inez Evening, Charlene Farmer, Cora George (Consultant), Lillie Little (Consultant), Alene Menta, Evelyn Teton (Illustrator), Mary Washakie Illustrated by Frederick Auck

[Coyote and Trout](#) [571 KB, 22 pp.] **Book 10** Developed by the Kootenai Cultural Committee of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Mary Andrews (Consultant), Joe Antiste (Consultant), Susan Blixt, Sarah Bufton, Glenda Burke (Illustrator), Madeline Coutre, Debbie Joseph (Illustrator), Alex Lefthand (Consultant), Basil Lefthand (Consultant), Naida Lefthand (Coordinator), Adeline Mathias (Consultant)

*[Coyote and the Mean Mountain Sheep](#) [1.2 MB, 22 pp.] **Book 20** Developed by the Salish (Flathead) Cultural Committee of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Johnny Arlee (Coordinator), Mary Finley, Tony Incashola, Mary Linsebigler, Tony Sandoval (Illustrator), Clarence Woodcock As told by Johnny Arlee Illustrated by Tony Sandoval Compiled by Shirley Torgerson
(reprinted by OPI 2009)

[Coyote \(3 stories\)](#) [787 KB, 40 pp.] **Book 5** An Assiniboine Story

Jerome Fourstar, Madonna Fourstar, Joseph Clancy, Geraldine Clancy As told by Jerome Fourstar
Illustrated by Joseph Clancy

A contemporary, humorous tale:

A Coyote Solstice Tale by Thomas King, illustrated by Gary Clement

Wily trickster Coyote is having his friends over for a little solstice get-together in the woods when a little girl comes by unexpectedly. She leads the friends through the snowy woods to the mall — a place they have never seen before. AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH LITERATURE AWARD (2010) ISBN 0888999291